

# **NEWS RELEASE**

**Manti-La Sal National Forest**  
**599 West Price River Drive**  
**Price, UT 84501**



DATE: July 7, 2003

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## CAMPFIRE STARTED WOODENSHOE FIRE

A U. S. Forest Service fire investigator has determined that the Woodenshoe Fire started from an escaped or abandoned campfire. An investigation has been launched to locate the individual or persons responsible for the fire. The Forest Service is seeking information on people who hiked or camped in the Woodenshoe and Cherry canyons area from June 26 to 28. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the Forest Service at 435-652-3119 or the San Juan County Sheriff's Office at 435-587-2237.

Meanwhile, firefighters made significant gains on the wildfire over the Fourth of July weekend, achieving an estimated 50% containment of the 2710-acre wildland fire. Rugged terrain, dry vegetation, low humidity, and extreme drought have made conditions extremely difficult for fire crews. Late Sunday afternoon gusty winds caused the fire to spot and make some runs on the north side of Cherry Canyon. Today, firefighters concentrated on improving and holding lines and mopping up spot fires.

The Woodenshoe fire emergency area closure remains in effect. The purpose of the emergency closure is to provide for public and firefighter health and safety. The Dry Mesa Road (FR 108) and portions of Forest Road 340 remain closed to public access, as well as several trails in the area of the fire. For more information about the closures, call the Monticello District Ranger Station at 435-587-2041 or Woodenshoe fire information at 435-636-3358 or log on to [www.utahfireinfo.gov](http://www.utahfireinfo.gov).

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